

27. NEW RECORD OF A PATELLID GASTROPOD *AMATHINA TRICARINATA* (LINN.) (GASTROPODA : AMATHINIDAE) FROM THE COASTAL WATERS OF DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

During a study of marine invertebrates from the coastal waters of Digha, we collected a single specimen of *Amathina tricarinata* (Linn.) from the outer surface of a living pearl oyster shell.

In their account of molluscan fauna of West Bengal, Subba Rao *et al.* (1992) do not mention this patellid gastropod from this area. A brief description of the species is given below.

Family: Amathinidae

Amathina tricarinata (Linnaeus)

1767. *Patella tricarinata* Linnaeus., Syst. Nat. (ed 12): 1250.

Diagnostic characters: Shell solid, dull, roughly oval in outline, narrower posteriorly; protoconch heterostrophic; apex with 3 strong, rounded and occasionally scaly ribs radiating to the anterior edge where they project slightly; low, wavy, axial ribs occupy posterior slope.

Colour: Pale yellow.

Morphometric measurements: Length: 20 mm, diameter: 15 mm, height: 6 mm.

Distribution: INDIA: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Tamil Nadu. Digha (West Bengal) is now a new locality of the species. Elsewhere: Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman.

Material examined: 1 ex. Digha mohana; coll. J. Sarkar & S. Talukdar, 17.ii.97, Regn. No. 1892.

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REFERENCE

SUBBA RAO, N.V., A. DEY & S. BARUA (1992): Estuarine and marine Molluscs. State Fauna Series 3. Fauna of West Bengal. Pt 9: 129-268, 3 pic.

28. A NEW SITE RECORD FOR *RAPANA BULBOSA* (DILLWYN)

During a survey of molluscan fauna along the Alibag coast (Raigad dist., Maharashtra), I collected a specimen of *Rapana bulbosa*. Initially I thought it was an accidental occurrence, but during subsequent visits I have observed more live specimens on the same beach which confirm the occurrence.

Locality: Sasvane (Alibag, Maharashtra).

Description: Size 75 mm, large, thick and heavy shell. Shape globose. Spires low and

grooved. Surface finely striated with weakly developed or blunt spines. Siphonal canal very short.

Colour: Chestnut.

Habitat: Sandy or rocky shore, also in coral sand in mesolittoral zone.

Distribution: The species has been previously reported from both the west and east coast but there are no records of the species from Maharashtra in the available

literature. It is also recorded from Philippines, Japan, China, Persian Gulf, Aden, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

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29. *FICUS SUPERBA* MIQ. AND *F. FERGUSONI* (KING) WORTHINGTON (MORACEAE), TWO NEW REPORTS FROM INDIA

(With two text-figures)

Ficus (Moraceae) is one of the largest plant genera of the tropics which enjoys a cosmopolitan distribution. It includes an estimated 900-950 species (750 known) in 4 subgenera viz. *Urostigma* (Gasp.) Miq. *Pharmacosycea* Miq., *Sycomorus* (Gasp.) Miq and *Ficus* (Corner, 1965). India has a *Ficus* flora of 59 spp. (Corner, 1967). Two more species, *Ficus superba* Miq. and *F. fergusonii* (King) Worthington belonging to the subgenus *Urostigma* are now reported from India.

Ficus superba Miq., Ann. Mus. Lugd. Bot. iii - 287, 1867. Pl. Jungh. 46; fl. Ind. Bot. I, pt. 2 - 334. (Fig. 1).

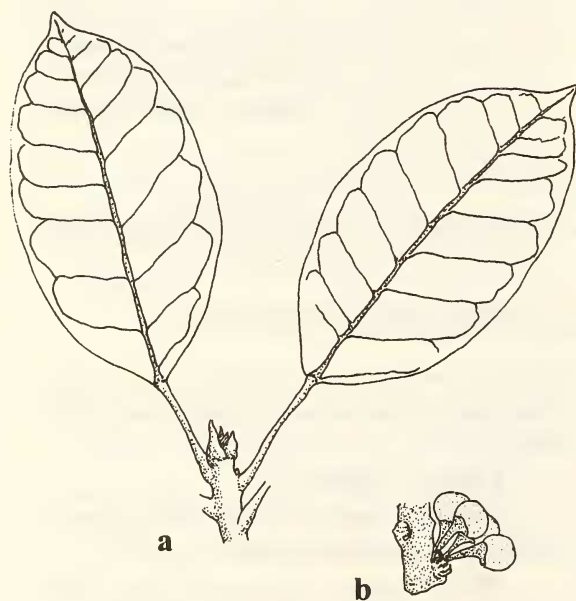


Fig. 1: *Ficus superba* Miq., a. leafy twigs
b. cluster of figs

Large glabrous stranglers, without aerial roots, up to a height of ca 20-25 m.; leaves in alternate helix, towards the tip of 0.5-0.7 cm wide twigs; stipules short, blunt, villous and caducous; petiole 5-9 cm long, always longer than the width of the lamina; lamina elliptic, acutely acuminate at apex, acumen 0.8-1 cm long, obtuse at base, 10-25 x 5.8 cm, dark green, glabrous, slightly coriaceous, entire, slightly undulating on the margin, 3 ribbed at the base, 8-10 pairs of lateral, slender, prominent nerves, middle ones at an angle of 60-80° to the midrib, brochidodromous, tertiaries percurrent, forked and convex. Figs in cauliflorous clusters of 2-6 (Fig. 1b), usually produced on short, perennial tubercles (small lateral shoots) borne on the older twigs well below the node, pedunculate, peduncle 0.5-1.0 cm, globose, 1.0-1.2 cm when ripe, green with pale spots in early stages, creamy white with pink spots in phase D and turning purple and becoming succulent in phase E; basal bracts 3, triangular and deciduous; male flowers ostiolar, sessile, monandrous, with double anther sacs and perianth of 3 tepals fused at the base.

Status: Indigenous, rare.

Distribution: Japan, China, Southeast Asia to Australia.

Exsiccates: HZDC (Herbarium, Dept. of Zoology, University of Calicut) - I/1, Kerala, Palghat, Shornur, coll. DRP. 6.ii.1991; HZDC - I/2, Kerala, Wynaad, Vaithiri, coll. DRP. 7.v.1991; HZDC - I/3, Kerala, University of Calicut, coll. DRP. 8.iii.1993.

F. fergusonii (King) Worthington, Ceylon trees f. 407. 1959; Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 21: 14. 1968.